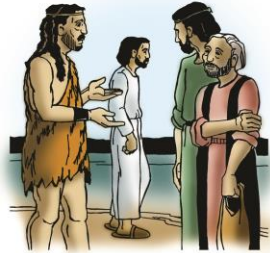


**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
JANUARY 18, 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
HOLY COMMUNION**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service**

**9:45 am - Sunday Church School and Children's Choir**

**11:00 am - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Each Month**

**Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor**

**Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173**

**Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)**

**Karen Fisher, Office Manager**

**Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507**

**Church Office: 717-766-4482**

**Office Email: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com)**

**Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday**

**Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir**

**Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064**

**Email: [denisehirn@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)**

**Brad Hull, Director of Music**

**Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795**

**Email: [bradleyjhull@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjhull@gmail.com)**

**[www.stmarkmburg.com](http://www.stmarkmburg.com)**

**Visit & like us on Facebook:**

***St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
JANUARY 18, 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
HOLY COMMUNION

**HOLY COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Starting with the season of Epiphany, St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church will offer communion at each Sunday service. It has been decided we need only fill out the communion card once each year. In an effort to reduce paper and administrative costs, we ask that you fill out the communion card the first time you commune each year. **This change is effective immediately.** If you have previously filled out a communion card this year (2026), you do not need to fill another one out till the first Sunday you commune in 2027.*

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY**

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Confession of Peter**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

**Agnes, martyr, died around 304**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

Agnes was a girl of about thirteen living in Rome. The details of her martyrdom are not clear, but she gave witness to her faith and was put to death as a result, most likely by the sword. The church has honored her as one of the chief martyrs of her time.

\*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

## PRELUDE

*The Star Proclaims the King is Here*

J. Pachelbel

## JOHN 1:14

P This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

C ALLELUIA!

## \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.*

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

# \*GATHERING SONG

## O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
 2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
 3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
 4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
 in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
 falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
 when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!



Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For life  
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

(Continued next page)

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!  
Our joy be all with music crowned,  
our voices gaily blending!  
For Christ goes with us all the way—  
today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
His love is never ending!  
Sing out! Ring out!  
Jubilation!  
Exultation!  
Tell the story!  
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
the Lord we love is first and last,  
the end and the beginning!  
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
transport us to that happy place  
beyond all tears and sinning!  
Amen! Amen!  
Come, Lord Jesus!  
Crown of gladness!  
We are yearning  
for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai

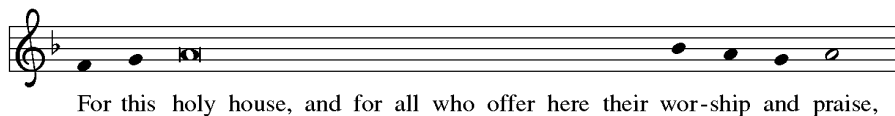
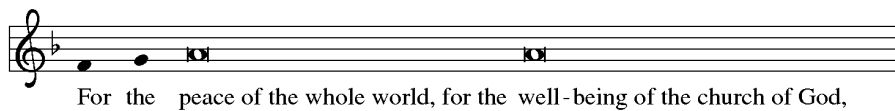
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### **\*GREETING**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** And also with you.

# \*KYRIE



## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

### *Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

### *Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

(Continued next page.)

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you, and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
- C** Amen.

### CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

*Did You Ever Talk To God Above?*

Rath

### FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 49:1-7

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

**R** A Reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- <sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.



<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

<sup>4</sup> But I said, “I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
and my reward with my God.”

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says,  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
“Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### PSALM: 40:1-11

*(Please read the Psalm responsively. Men, the regular print; women, the bold print.)*

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently upon the LORD; he stooped to me and heard my cry.

<sup>2</sup> **He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.**

<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust in the LORD! They do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.**

<sup>5</sup> Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God! How great your wonders and your plans for us! There is none who can be compared with you.

<sup>6</sup> Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

<sup>7</sup> In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure; you have given me ears to hear you;

<sup>8</sup> burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, and so I said, “Behold, I come.

<sup>9</sup> In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.’”

<sup>10</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O LORD, you know.

<sup>11</sup> Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

<sup>12</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

## **SECOND LESSON: 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

R        A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

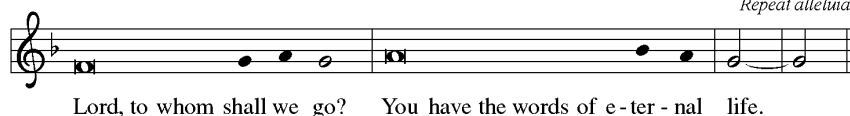
<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### \*ALLELUIA VERSE



### \*GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>29</sup>[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with

water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”<sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”<sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P        The Gospel of the Lord.  
C        Praise to you, O Christ.

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

## **\*APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the  
church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the  
earth, our home.

A Merciful God,  
C Receive our prayer.

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers  
us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness  
made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C Amen.

## **\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C And also with you.

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

*The Great Physician*

W. Hunter

## \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*Refrain*

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your  
church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord.

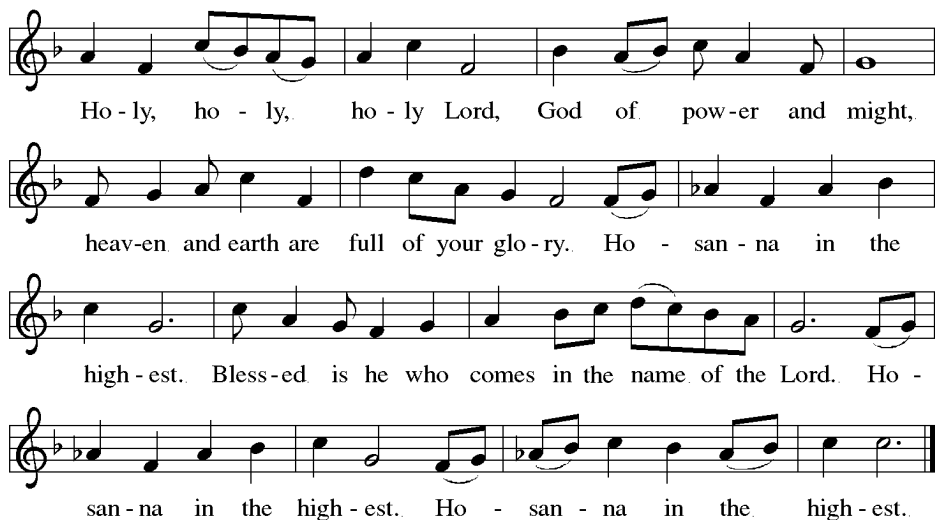
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

**\*P** Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.!



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



## COMMUNION

*Congregation may be seated. Please follow the directions of the ushers for the distribution of Communion.*

*All baptized, communing Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament.*

*We have gluten free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine.*

*Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.*

P      The body of Christ given for you.

C      Amen.

A      The blood of Christ shed for you.

C      Amen.

## -COMMUNION-

*Please sing the following hymns during the distribution.*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

## Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our  
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

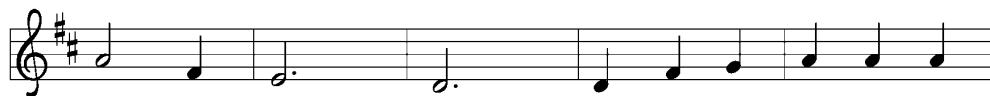
life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice  
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and  
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":  
kin - dred, leav - ing all Je - sus' sake.  
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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**\*P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**C** Amen.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A** Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C** Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

**P** The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.  
**C** Amen.

# \*CLOSING

## We Are Marching in the Light of God

### HYMN



*Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -*  
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



*nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',*  
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.



*Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo*  
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



*si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.*  
we are march - ing in the light of God.

*Additional stanzas ad lib.:*

We are dancing ...  
We are praying ...  
We are singing ...

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A        Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C        Thanks be to God.

### \*POSTLUDE

*Repton (He Comes to Us as One Unknown)*

R. Powell



In loving memory of Dan Reihart by Denise Bernatos.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Ushers:** Sara Jane Miller, Dee Bernatos

**Assisting Minister:** Kevin Amos

**Lay Reader:** Karen Heath

**Acolyte:** Audrey Johnston

**Altar Guild:** Andrea Sassaman, Beverly Reihart

**Council Money Duty:** Terry Shaner, Ben Yost

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

**Sunday, January 18**

8:30 am  
9:45 am  
9:45 am  
12:00 pm

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

Worship Service-Communion  
Sunday Church School  
Children's SS and Choir  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Monday, January 19**

2:00 pm  
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons  
German Group

**Tuesday, January 20**

**Wednesday, January 21**

11:00 am  
6:00 pm  
7:00 pm

Bible Study  
Bell Choir  
Adult Choir

**Thursday, January 22**

2:30 pm  
6:15 pm  
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons  
Ladies Night Out-Middlesex Diner  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Friday, January 23**

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

**Saturday, January 24**

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Sunday, January 25**

8:30 am  
9:45 am  
9:45 am  
12:00 pm

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

Worship Service-Communion  
Sunday Church School  
Children's SS and Choir  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**LESSONS:**

**FIRST LESSON**

**PSALM**

**SECOND LESSON**

**GOSPEL**

**JANUARY 25, 2026**

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

## **-ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

### **BRING ON THE SOUP!!!!**

Please bring Chicken Noodle Soup or Tomato Soup each week **through February 8** to support your favorite team—Karen's CHICNS (Creating Hope In Chicken Noodle Soup) or Shannon's Super Duper Tomato Soupers.

### **LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT**

The Ladies and Friends Night Out resumes on **January 22, at 6:15 PM**. We will be dining at Middlesex Diner, 1803 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, PA. They are a BYOB facility. **Please RSVP to Karen Fisher no later than January 19.** <https://www.facebook.com/middlesexdiner>

### **DINNER AND BANDIT BINGO**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for dinner and Bandit Bingo on Friday, **February 13**. Dinner will be held at **5:00 PM** followed by Bandit Bingo—where “stealing” is encouraged. Please RSVP to Karen Fisher in the church office as soon as possible. Admission is 1 canned food item of your choice for New Hope Ministries.

### **LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY**

Lent begins on Ash **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**. Worship services will be held at **noon and 7:00 PM**.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 22**, immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary.

### **BREAD AND BROTH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Come share a soup meal at St. Mark **every Wednesday evening at 5:30 PM evening during Lent (February 25 through March 25)**.

### **SAVE THE DATE—YARD SALE**

The St. Mark Evangelism Committee will be hosting a Community Yard Sale in our back yard on **Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM**. Set up starts at 7:00 AM. Watch for details in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.



**ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

# **ROLLER SKATING PARTY**



**Monday, February 2, 2026  
6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Olympic Skating Center  
60 E Shady Ln, Enola, PA 17025**

**Bring your friends!**

**Admission covered by St. Mark Youth &  
Family Ministry Committee**

**Snack bar available. Roller skates and in-line skates for rent**

# Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

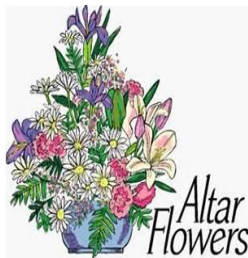
Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:



\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers

***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office.***

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Please check any that apply!

- ☐ Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- ☐ Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- ☐ Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

### THEN KNOWING BEGINS

There is a whole lot written about *knowing* in this gospel's pithy account of Jesus' debut. There is, for that matter, a lot written about knowing throughout John's gospel; it's part of this book of the Bible's particularity. But take note: Before any claims of knowing are dashed into this memoir, John the Baptizer bothers to reveal that there was, for him, a time before knowing—a time when he did not know Jesus. This little and perhaps overlooked detail, "I myself did not know him" (John 1:31), is like sugar water in a hummingbird feeder: a sweet invitation or coaxing to come, taste and see what is good.

That admission from John lures readers and hearers to pay attention not simply to events: the arrival of Jesus on the scene, his walking toward John, the act of baptizing with water, or even the flamboyant descent of a dove. These are descriptive details, but they are not the essence of what soon will overtake John and others—an invitation to know Jesus.

The difference between knowing *about* Jesus and knowing Jesus is tucked in and all around this gospel text that leads initially to the Baptizer and then moves onto a pathway beyond him. Yes, Jesus is introduced as "Lamb of God." Yes, like a dove, the Spirit was seen descending. Vivid, symbolic details, for sure, about one coming to take away sin. But it is afterward, in Andrew and Simon's curiosity and willingness to follow, when Jesus asks "What are you looking for?" and urges them to "come and see," when they begin to stay together—they with Jesus and he with them—that knowing Jesus overtakes them and they fall into the grace of what he comes to take away and what he comes to give.